



Householders' Options to
Protect the Environment Inc.
PO Box 6118 – Clifford Gardens,
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

(22 Vacy Street, Toowoomba QLD
4350)

Ph 07 4639 2135;

Email: office@hopeaustralia.org.au

Website: <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/Householders.Options.to.Protect.the.Environment>

ABN 48 036 173 161

HOPE E-news Bulletin 2014 #5 — 19 May 2014

The following items have been gathered from various e-newsletters received by HOPE in recent times; and/or prepared specifically by HOPE members and supporters. If you have any news to contribute, please forward to office@hopeaustralia.org.au.

Deadline for articles is 15th day of the month. If you would like to discuss news items displayed or have letters for the editor please contact the office or [Kerry Kruger](mailto:Kerry.Kruger@hopeaustralia.org.au).

Hello

With Kerry our newsletter editor off sick, I'm having a crack at doing the newsletter from scratch. Please excuse any 'mistakes' and/or left-out sections.

The main thrust of this edition is to promote our upcoming *Celebrating Our Environment Expo* being held at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ, West Street, Toowoomba, QLD on Wednesday 4 June 2014.

I hope that all of you in the local area will be able to come along and share the day with us.

A big thanks to Shawn Dang for supplying many Website Summaries. Other contributions of articles have been gleaned from a variety of e-newsletters we have received.

Frank Ondrus, acting Newsletter Editor

Calendar of events

MAY

- 22 [International Day for Biological Diversity](#)
- 23 [World Turtle Day](#)
- 23 National Walk Safely To School Day: <http://www.walk.com.au/WSTSD/>
Parents and carers are encouraged to walk their primary-age children to school today, promoting better attitudes to road safety, health, public transport and the environment.
- 27-3Jun [National Reconciliation Week](#)

JUNE

- 4 **Celebrating Our Environment Expo -- USQ, Toowoomba**
- 5 [World Environment Day](#)
- 8 [World Oceans Day](#)
- 17 [World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought](#)

Date Claimer

**"CELEBRATING OUR ENVIRONMENT"
EXPO**

Wednesday, 4 June 2014 | 10am to 4pm
University of Southern Queensland
West Street, Toowoomba

Admission: FREE!



Featuring:

- **Information displays** – environment/conservation, landcare, animal welfare, Reverse Garbage
- **Trade exhibits** – solar electricity, organic fruit & veges, soaps
- **Demonstrations (outside on quadrangle)** – chook tractor, worm farm, composting, square foot/container gardening, "Qwikbed"

❖ **FREE bicycle "turn up" & valet parking service**

❖ **Official opening at 11am**

❖ **Speakers program (Room R113, from 12 noon)**

❖ **Multi-draw raffle ... lots of prizes!!**

❖ **Food & drink available**

Hosted by Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) and University of Southern Queensland (USQ)

Sponsors:





5 June 2014

**"Raise Your Voice,
Not the Sea level"**

Office News Report – May 2014

Hello there,

What an interesting few weeks it's been since the last newsletter. Several of our management committee members have fallen ill and/or injured themselves thus impacting on the level of output for the office and for projects such as the upcoming *Celebrating Our Environment Expo*.

We also haven't had a great run with the local/regional media promoting the many HOPE activities and undertakings of our colleagues in the environment sector. Maybe, we're trying to do too much for the environment! Never!!

Public Meetings program

The public meeting on the draft Qld Waste Strategy scheduled for 12 May was cancelled due to a lack of support from the media resulting in only 2 registrations.

Due to the Queen's Birthday holiday on 9 June our scheduled speaker from the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) will now appear in August.

Public meetings calendar:

- 14 July – Clean Air Queensland, Michael Kane
- 11 Aug – QMDC, Shelley Purser
- 9 Sept – Condamine Catchment Community Exchange, Janet Bishop; and HOPE Ordinary Meeting
- 13 Oct – Transition Towns – speakers tbc
- 10 Nov – Social Justice Commission (Toowoomba Diocese), Mark Copland
- 8 Dec – HOPE AGM; and 1st Ordinary Meeting for 2014-2015

Celebrating Our Environment Expo, Wednesday 4 June 2014 – USQ, Toowoomba

Wow! Only 3 weeks until the Expo and there's still a few matters to resolve.

Firstly, we need the loan of a working compost bin for demonstration purposes. If you oblige, please phone the office asap on 4639 2135 for details of when and where to setup the bin.

Secondly, we still need 5 or 6 volunteers to help out on the day. Please register your availability with the office.

Thirdly, we're decided to run a fund-raising Multi-Draw Raffle. So far, we have approx.. \$1,500 worth of prizes – consisting of vouchers and various gift packs. Tickets are \$2 each and are in books of 10. Please pre-order your tickets from the office NOW!

(If unable to purchase raffle tickets, but would like to make a \$\$\$ donation in support of HOPE and its activities, you can make a pledge / donation via our website at <http://www.hopeaustralia.org.au/annual-pledgedonation/>

See you at the Expo!

Frank Ondrus, Office Manager – HOPE Inc.,
ph 07 4639 2135, office@hopeaustralia.org.au

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Food for thought

... a couple of articles from Paul Gilding, an independent writer and advisor on sustainability

Carbon Crash Solar Dawn

By Paul Gilding (www.paulgilding.com)

I think it's time to call it. Renewables and associated storage, transport and digital technologies are so rapidly disrupting whole industries' business models they are pushing the fossil fuel industry towards inevitable collapse.

Some of you will struggle with that statement. Most people accept the idea that fossil fuels are all powerful – that the industry controls governments and it will take many decades to force them out of our economy. Fortunately, the fossil fuel industry suffers the same delusion.

In fact, probably the main benefit of the US shale gas and oil “revolution” is that it's keeping the fossil fuel industry and it's cheer squad distracted while renewables, electric cars and associated technologies build the momentum needed to make their takeover unstoppable – even by the most powerful industry in the world.

How could they miss something so profound? One thing I've learnt from decades inside boardrooms, is that, by and large, oil, coal and gas companies live in an analytical bubble, deluded about their immortality and firm in their beliefs that “renewables are decades away from competing” and “we are so cheap and dominant the economy depends on us” and “change will come, but not on my watch”. Dream on boys.

[Continue reading](#)



How anti-coal campaigners are protecting Australia's economy

By Paul Gilding – www.paulgilding.com

Irony doesn't get any better than this. [Environmentalists and farmers fighting](#) the expansion of coal mining and coal seam gas across Australia are protecting the economy. If they are successful in slowing down or reversing these sectors in Australia, future governments will be spared an economic mess, Australian workers will have much improved employment prospects and our big banks will be spared major losses.

That's because, while not their intention, such campaigns are the only thing likely to moderate the rude economic awakening we face when the global carbon bubble bursts and the fossil fuel industries start their inevitable and terminal decline. While the [world economy will be impacted](#) Australia is particularly exposed and with the active support of our governments and financial institutions, coal and gas companies are doing their best to increase this exposure.

Fortunately for Australia's economics prospects, these campaigns are amongst the most strategic and effective ones we've seen from the NGO community for many years. Unlike traditional environmental campaigns that tend to raise an issue and demand government intervene, these campaigns are displaying a more sophisticated approach, [taking on the industry](#) with a clear view of how markets work. They recognise that government will not be an ally in this case, with both major parties showing overwhelming support for the expansion of Australia's fossil fuel dependency. So they are instead going direct to the market, targeting each development with legal and other delay tactics, attacking the reputation of lenders and suggesting investors think again about financial risk.

[Continue reading](#)

National News

Birdlife Australia - Campaigns SOS - Save our Shorebirds

Shorebird habitat across Australia is threatened by port and residential development, recreational users and weed incursions. Australia must show international leadership by honouring our commitments to protect important shorebird habitat. Click [here](#) to add your voice to our call for greater protection of shorebird habitat, including a stronger wildlife conservation plan for migratory shorebirds.



**SAY HELLO TO THE
CHANGE AGENCY'S
NEW WEBSITE!**

We've revolutionised access to our unique resource collection. The Change Agency team has been creating, collecting and adapting resources for activists and organisers for almost 20 years. Since we created our first website in 2006, it has had almost one million visitors and more than 10,000 downloads each month. Although popular, our ageing site was stacked to the rafters with more ...

[Read more.](#)



The GM-free movement is going gangbusters - globally, nationally and locally. Thousands of you - our loyal members and supporters - regularly say 'no' to the GM industry, buying and eating GM-free and organic foods. But there are still many GM-free challenges and much to do. If you have the interest and time for a role in our public interest GM-free advocacy and campaigns, please email info@geneethics.org.

OPEN YOUR DOOR FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSE DAY - SEEKING HOMEOWNERS, SUSTAINABILITY GROUPS & LOCAL COUNCILS

Sustainable House Day is seeking sustainability groups, local councils and homeowners with environmentally healthy homes to inspire and educate others on a sustainable lifestyle by participating in its upcoming 2014 event.

In its 13th year, this unique, free event is a grassroots initiative that utilizes peer to peer education to promote the benefits of integrating renewable energy, recycling, and other sustainable practices into the home and everyday lifestyle. The general public will have the opportunity to tour more than 220+ Australian homes for inspiration, tips and ideas on how to live more eco-friendly.

Sustainable House Day, to be held on Sunday 7 and Sunday 14 September 2014, is calling for participants and volunteers for all aspects of the event particularly:

- **HOMEOWNERS** who have created homes that feature a variety of sustainable features (i.e categories include building and construction, garden & outdoors, water harvesting, renewable energy, heating & cooling, fixtures & fittings and appliances) to open their homes to host tours
- **SUSTAINABILITY/LOCAL GROUP** who are interested in hosting/coordinating homes and volunteers and/or hosting ancillary events
- **LOCAL COUNCILS** interested in supporting SHD through encouraging houses and groups within their municipality to participate as well as host ancillary events or promote the event.

All participants have the choice to participate, hold ancillary events or open their homes on either Sunday 7 September or Sunday 14 September or both. For further information on how to participate, please visit the Sustainable House Day website www.sustainablehouseday.com or contact the national managers, EnviroEvents via info@sustainablehouseday.com or telephone 1300 430 430.

Sustainable House Day 2014 is an initiative of the Australian Solar Council, is managed under license by by EnviroEvents and is proudly sponsored by The EnviroShop.

LOCAL/REGIONAL CONTACT: HOPE Australia (Householders' Options to Protect the Environment), ph 07 4639 2135 or email office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

NATIONAL EVENT CONTACT: Jodie North, Event and Online Marketing Manager, EnviroEvents, Jodie.north@enviroevents.com.au, telephone: 1300 430 430 or mobile: 0430705958

Global GMO Free Coalition forms

A coalition to formally unite GM-free groups around the world will launch May 20.

Visit the new website here: <http://www.gmofreeglobal.org/en/> Together, the global movement will engage mainstream media on GM stories, provide expert evidence in support of GM-free policies to the public and governments, and disprove GM industry propaganda. The movement offers new empowerment for GM-free futures.

Advertisement



The Self Sufficiency Shoppe

www.theshoppe.com.au

Homemade Bath Salts:

Pour your choice of bath salts (i.e. Epsom salts, rock salt or washing soda) into a bowl. Add 3-4 drops scented oil or essential oil (i.e. eucalyptus or lavender) and 1-2 drops food colouring. Mix well to blend. Pour into a clean recycled jar. Label and decorate with fancy ribbon.

How to use: Add to bath for general bathing or use as a foot bath.

More bath ideas in **e-Book No. 37 - Beautiful Baths** [Click here](#) for information

Citrus or Rose Soap-Bag

(Soap is a safe, environmentally friendly alternative to detergents and body washes. Use left-over scraps for extra savings!).

Mix together: 2 teaspoons grated soap, 1 teaspoon oatmeal, oat-bran OR wheat-germ and 1/2 teaspoon grated citrus peel or chopped fresh rose petals. Mix well.

Spoon into the centre of a pretty piece of fabric or handkerchief. Tie with matching ribbon. (Or, if handy with the sewing machine make up a small pillow or sachet).

Use in place of soap when showering, bathing or hand-washing.

Website Summaries

(Prepared by Shawn Dang for HOPE Australia)

The Community Climate Chest -

<https://www.climatechest.org.au>

The Community Climate Chest (or C3) is a not for profit organization that provides real renewable energy and carbon offsets to households and businesses that wish to neutralise their greenhouse emissions.

A bit of background:

- GreenPower generators need to receive an additional 'green' payment to be economically viable
- Business that use large amount of fossil fuel based electricity or generate large amount of greenhouse gases may need to buy carbon credit to offset their emissions.

How the C3 program works:

- C3 buys 100% government-accredited green power, plus carbon offsets accredited under the rigorous international Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS)
- You as households or business owners purchase green power from C3. There are no contracts, no need to change your electricity provider. For example, if you specify 5 MWh of power in your request to C3, then C3 will pay for that amount of energy to be generated by a project which had been accredited by the State Government's GreenPower authority.
- A percentage of every sale is donated to a local community host of your choosing, such as a local renewable energy association or a national environmental organization
- You receive a certificate as proof of payment to publicise your efforts and inspire others to follow your example; payments to C3 are tax deductible to the end consumer and GST does not apply.

Paul Gilding's Website -

<http://paulgilding.com>)

This is the personal website of Paul Gilding, who is an Australian environmentalist and a former executive director of Greenpeace international. He also established and ran two companies focused on energy sustainability, which pioneered the way of social entrepreneurship in this realm.

He is the author of the book *“The Great Disruption: Why the Climate Crisis Will Bring On the End of Shopping and the Birth of a New World (2011)”*, in which he tried to raise people’s conscious of a possible ending of current economic world due to climate, environment and ecological issues, and brought forth by ongoing financial crises. Rather different from many other environmentalists, he is optimistic in believing that people working together can struggle through the crisis and save human civilization, and by then, will adopt a new form of social life by “reinventing the global economy and our model of social progress”.

On his website Paul keeps following up latest trends in economy, environment, energy, climate and resource issues. One of his latest articles is on progress of clean energy industry, in which he gave us an analysis of a profound scenario. There are also valuable comments to his articles from various people. Maybe you are the next.

Australian Tyre Recyclers Association (ATRA) - <http://atra.org.au>

Australian Tyre Recyclers Association (ATRA) is an industry association started in 2003. ATRA is committed to tyre recycling in Australia, in order to minimize the damage of waste tyres to human health and the environment. ATRA is open to all stakeholders involved in the industries of waste tyre processing, including retailers, collectors, recyclers, and tyre manufacturers.

ATRA works to minimize the impact of damage from waste tyres to human health and the environment, both locally and globally. ATRA assists in the creation of new businesses and jobs through the realisation of cost-effective and environmentally sound recycling activities. It serves the tyre recycling industry in an advocacy role with the public, government and associated stakeholders. It also promotes the use of recycled rubber in a range of consumer and industrial products.

To be a member of ATRA, a company should be licensed to collect, store and process tyres, operate within the law and in an ethical manner, keep detailed records of tyres collected and processed for waste tracking, process tyres before export, have the council’s development application approval, and hold safe and suitable working conditions for all staff.

Peak Prosperity - <http://www.peakprosperity.com/>

This is a very interesting website focused on issues at the intersection among Economy, Energy and Environment. It was founded by Chris Martenson and Adam Taggart, both of whom used to be very successful business managers, but later became seriously concerned about how our economy may hit problems from energy limitation and environment issues and how our lifestyle may change drastically in the near future.

The website addresses their understandings on this topic. With proficient knowledge in economy and finance, their critical thinking has led to an uncomfortable conclusion, that is we are facing an unavoidable contradiction between economic growth and resource limitation. They are endeavouring to rise awareness of people on this topic by providing an online “Crach Course” on both their website and their YouTube page (<http://www.youtube.com/user/ChrisMartenson.com>). They keep writing blogs and news digests to comment ongoing events concerning economy, finance, energy, environment, natural resource and climate. There are also invited speakers and writers contributing to the podcasts and blogs on the website.

One of their recent podcasts was given by Ugo Bardi on resource depletion (<http://www.peakprosperity.com/podcast/85158/ugo-bardi-banquet-consequences?u>). In this video Ugo and Chric talked about the resource problems in current energy industries, covering energy sustainability and prospect of renewable energy.

The Sunrise Project - <http://www.sunriseproject.org.au/>

The Sunrise Project Australia Limited was registered as a Company limited by guarantee in mid 2012 with the following charitable objectives:

1. Protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment;
2. Protect the natural environment from pollution and overexploitation;
3. Support and empower individuals, communities, governments and industry to make changes required to prevent dangerous climate change;

4. Facilitate public education about, and promote the transition to, a clean energy economy; and
5. Educate, empower and support communities to protect natural assets and promote the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources in their local areas.

The Sunrise Project has endorsement as a charity from the Australian Taxation Office and is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

The Sunrise Project started 2013 with two staff and finished the year with six. In 2012 and 2013 we worked hard to establish a diverse funding base for the core Sunrise program, as well as supporting grantees and partner groups to build their own fundraising capacity. During this time we built relationships with new major donors to support our program, including securing support for the international small grants program.

Our overall **objectives** are to:

1. **Protect natural assets and community health**
 - Protect clean water resources
 - Protect farmland
 - Protect community health
 - Protect the Great Barrier Reef
 - Protect biodiversity and natural places
2. **Hasten the transition to a clean energy economy**
 - Promote renewable energy
 - Prevent large scale greenhouse pollution from fossil fuels

To achieve these objectives, we use the following **key strategies**:

- Facilitate and promote community education in relation to the impacts of resource extraction and the transition to a low carbon economy;
- Monitor and ensure industry compliance with existing regulations;
- Improve regulation and government policy affecting resource extraction;
- Expose corruption and undue political influence in the regulatory process relating to mining and energy;
- Build the capacity of communities to participate in decision-making concerning resource extraction in their local areas.

Further information about The Sunrise Project may be found at www.sunriseproject.org.au.

The Sustainable Engineering Society - <http://seng.org.au/>

The *Sustainable Engineering Society* (SENG) was established in 1994 with the mission of working towards environmental sustainability. The Society is affiliated with the Environmental Engineering College, and also a constitutional part of Engineers Australia.

The society builds up connections among professionals from different fields of engineering and science, to facilitate communication and co-ordination on research, education and information dissemination in sustainable engineering. It also builds up collaboration among institutions, governments, industries, community organisations and societies in setting guidelines and standards, promoting attitudes and practices, and providing expert advice on engineering solutions for environmental sustainability. The society also endeavours to incorporate environmental sustainability principles into engineering education and professional practice.

The Society is managed by a National Board of members elected from local Chapter membership in each Division. Currently local Chapters have been formed in Victoria, Sydney, Newcastle, Western Australia, Queensland and the ACT.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific intergovernmental body supported by the United Nations and was first established in 1988. The IPCC produces reports that support the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the main international treaty on climate change, with the ultimate aim of "stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system".

The IPCC was involved in the "Climategate" in 2009, during which some climate researchers were revealed to over-estimate the severity of climate change. This has led to controversy and suspicion about the factuality of human-

incurred climate change. However the IPCC has also been criticized to under-estimate the climate change and relevant risks on the other hand. Having survived from the criticisms, the IPCC now concerns more about how humans will live with climate change as it has already happened.

The IPCC writes its report based on published literature, which includes peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed sources. It has scientist and other experts volunteering to write and review parts of the report, which are then reviewed by its member governments of more than 120 countries. On its official website the IPCC provide most of its reports and supporting data to be downloaded. Its activities, calendar and meeting documentation can also be found there. The IPCC also offers scholarships to students worldwide who are doing studies on climate-related issues.

HOPE advertisements

Volunteers needed



HOPE is looking for extra volunteers who can help in the following areas:
--- Admin assistance; literature review and follow-up internet research; promotion and marketing; planning and preparing for events and activities; preparing media releases; and developing publications such as information sheets, guides and booklets.

A fair portion of the above work would ideally be done by locals (i.e. in the Toowoomba area) because the HOPE office is in Toowoomba. However, quite a bit of the literature review, research, media and publications activity can be done via email. If you have a little bit of time to help us in any way, then contact the HOPE office on email office@hopeaustralia.org.au or phone (07) 4639 2135.

Note: If we can enlist a team of 3 or 4 media officers, then their individual contribution may be as little as one item every 3-4 months.

HOPE reference library



HOPE has a good collection of library reference material – both hard-copy (books, magazines, reports, DVDs) and electronic reports and newsletters. Topics include biodiversity, climate change, energy, Govt, landcare/NRM, MDB, mining, pest plants and animals, sustainable housing, waste and water. Hard-copy material is available from office; and electronic material is available by email. If you are chasing something specific, why not give us a call on 07 4639 2135 or email to office@hopeaustralia.org.au .

Kitchen conversations



In an effort to connect more regularly with our 'local' HOPE members and friends, we have started a monthly morning tea program. The morning teas are held on the 2nd Monday of the month, starting around 10am at the HOPE office, 22 Vacy St, Toowoomba.